AMERICA'S SBDC
ACCREDITED MEMBER
MONTANA

SBDC FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the Montana SBDC

The Montana Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network is a partnership between the Montana Department of Commerce, U.S. Small Business Administration, regional economic development organizations and institutions of higher education.

The Montana SBDC Network consists of ten centers throughout the state that provide free, confidential, one-on-one business counseling and low-cost training programs to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

The SBDCs are dedicated to helping small businesses throughout Montana achieve their goals of growth, expansion, innovation and success. Our Network combines the resources of federal, state and local organizations with that of the education system and private sector to meet the specialized and complex needs of the small business community.

Visit www.sbdc.mt.gov and contact the SBDC nearest you to learn more about what counseling services and training programs are available in your area.

1. Does the SBDC give out grants to small businesses?

No. The SBDC does not directly loan money or give grants to small businesses. Your SBDC Business Advisor will help you find an appropriate source of funding that best suits your needs and assist you with the necessary business planning and financial projections needed to apply for SBA guaranteed loans and approach local banks for capital.

2. What <u>can</u> the SBDC help me with?

The SBDCs help with a large variety of business issues from basic start-up questions to assisting with financing issues, preparing business plans and marketing assistance. SBDC Business Advisors do not provide specific legal or tax advice, but they can provide you with information to help you make an informed decision or provide referral sources if further help is needed.

3. How much do SBDC services cost?

All SBDC counseling services are confidential and provided at no cost to the business owner. Most training programs, workshops and seminars are offered for an affordable fee.

4. I think I have a great idea for a business. What do I do first?

We recommend that all start-up businesses and potential entrepreneurs attend one of the SBDC's "Evaluate a Business Idea" workshops. "Evaluate a Business Idea" is designed to help you examine your business idea and determine your potential for success before you spend time and money developing a business plan.

5. How do I get an SBA loan?

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan programs are designed to encourage commercial lenders (like banks) to make loans directly to business owners and entrepreneurs. The SBA does not make direct loans. Your SBDC Business Advisor will be able to walk you through the loan application process and help you determine what kind of loan package is right for your financing needs.

6. Will the SBDC write my business plan for me?

No. Your SBDC Business Advisor will guide you through the "how-to" of writing your business plan and will work one-on-one with you to develop a comprehensive plan with accompanying cash flow projections and financial statements.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SBA U.S. Small Business Administration

AMERICA'S SBDC ACCREDITED MEMBER

Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.